UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.241/20
16 March 1994

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR THE ELABORATION OF A CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (INCD)
Fourth session
Geneva, 21-31 March 1994
Agenda item 3

REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

Note by the Secretariat

I. SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION

1. By its Resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly established a Special Voluntary Fund, administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary General of the United Nations, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process.

2. During the past sessions of the negotiating Committee several countries indicated their contributions to the Fund, and others indicated their intention to contribute as soon as their internal procedures would permit. The Chairman of the Committee urged Governments in a position to do so but which have not yet done so to contribute to the Special Voluntary Fund according to their possibilities at an early date.

3. The current status of pledges and receipts is shown in the following table:

Special Voluntary Fund for participation of developing countries
(General Assembly resolution 47/188, para 15)
Status of contributions as of 16 March 1994

	Pledges	Contributions (US dollars)	Receipt Number	Date Received
MEMBER STATES				
Canada	77,662	77,662	B 02188	22.06.93
Denmark	199,985	199,985	B 021076	10.03.93
France*	159,754	70,358	B 022805	20.10.93
		33,641	B 023266	23.12.93
Germany*	185,827	185,827	B 0228	27.10.93
Ireland*	71,400	-		
Italy*	93,750	-		
Japan*	300,000	-		
Norway	199,985	199,985	B 020964	23.02.93
Spain*	42,024	42,024	B 021923	28.06.93
Sweden*	262,280	262,280	B 02098	25.02.93
Switzerland*	66,013	66,013	B 021975	07.07.93
United Kingdom	111,727	74,460	B 022033	19.07.93
		37,267	B 023205	16.12.93
USA	50,000	50,000	B 021147	24.03.93
OTHERS				
European Commission*	57,000	-		
TOTAL	1,877,407	1,299,502		

* Approximate US dollar equivalent of local currency pledge.

4. From contributions, 13 percent overhead costs are retained and an operating reserve (normally 15%, but in 1993 on an exceptional basis, the Controller agreed to 5%) maintained to cover eventual final obligations. Consequently, of total contributions amounting to US$ 1,299,502, an amount of US$ 1,065,592 was available to meet travel and DSA costs of participants from countries eligible for funding.

5. These resources have been used in connection with the first, second and third substantive sessions of the Committee for which total expenditures amounted to US$ 1,066,828. In extending assistance to the countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, due attention has been paid to the particular situation of the countries concerned, as well as precedents established recently by negotiating processes on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

6. In the light of the above considerations the Secretariat issued travel authorizations for the first and second sessions, to one delegate from about 70 countries including most LDCs and a significant number of developing countries affected by desertification and drought as specified in paragraph 15 of General Assembly's resolution 47/188. For the third session, funds were available to cover only 58 countries. In document A/AC.241/16 submitted during the last session, it was indicated that only 45 countries were covered: that was due to the fact that additional contributions were received after the processing of the document. Furthermore, document A/AC.241/16 stressed that if the same arrangements should be adopted for the Fourth and Fifth Sessions, the total amount of additional contributions required for the Fund would amount to an estimated US$ 800,000. Under the terms of this estimate US$ 400,000 were to be used for the Geneva Session and US$ 400,000 for the Paris Session. As indicated in the above table, a total additional amount of US$ 520,705 was pledged during the last session for the Special Voluntary Fund. This amount constitutes the pledges made by France, Ireland and Japan, as well as a pledge already announced by Italy. An additional pledge of US$ 10,000 was announced by Greece without specifying the Fund for which this contribution was made.

Unfortunately, as of 16 March 1994 no contributions were received. In view of this time constraint, this document was sent for processing. Therefore no mention is made to the participation of developing countries to the Fourth Session. If any of the contributions pledged are received after this date, an addendum to this document will be distributed during the Session which will indicate the contributions received and list the countries which were assisted.

7. Financial assistance has been extended, on a priority basis, to 3 representatives of developing countries who are members of the Bureau of the Committee and its two Working Groups, in order to ensure that the delegates concerned have no difficulty in participating in the Committee's work as well as in the Enlarged Bureau Meeting held in Stockholm from 15-17 March 1994.

8. Should appropriate arrangements be adopted for the fifth session in Paris, i.e., the funding of one delegate from some 70 countries and Bureau members, the total amount of additional contributions required for this Fund would amount to an estimated US$ 400,000. In the light of this situation, the Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to make the necessary contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund.

9. The Committee may also wish to give further guidance to the Executive Secretary concerning the adequacy of the arrangements made in respect of the use of the Fund for participation in the substantive sessions held to-date and concerning its future use.

II. TRUST FUND FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

10. The General Assembly, by its resolution 47/228, paragraph 13 decided that "the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a Trust Fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations..." It also urged "governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non governmental organizations, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund."

11. The current situation concerning pledges and contributions is shown in the following table. A number of countries which had pledged have made contributions while others have pledged without specifying the amounts of their envisaged contributions. The following countries made such pledges: Germany and Sweden. The Secretariat has established contacts with other countries as well as Agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations to enlist their support. UNDP has announced additional contributions in support of the negotiating process, including an amount of US$100,000 already put at the disposal of the INCD Secretariat by UNSO. UNEP has increased its support from the level reported to the second session, including an additional pledge of US$ 100,000 earmarked for the participation of NGOs and support to the Secretariat for preparation of other Regional instruments to be annexed to the Convention.

Trust Fund for the Negotiating Process
Status of contributions as of 16 March 1994

	Pledges	Contributions (US dollars)	Receipt Number	Date Received
MEMBER STATES				
Australia*	115,996	34,915	B 022108	27.07.93
Canada*	134,982	134,982	B 02225	20.07.93
Cyprus	1,000	1,000	B 021584	14.05.93
Denmark	200,000	200,000	B 023661	10.02.94
Finland*	91,000	-		
France*	105,542	105,542	B 022805	20.10.93
Germany	to be announced	-		
Japan*	123,000	-		
Netherlands*	555,139	555,139	B 022396	16.09.93
Norway*	187,971	149,978	B 02165	24.05.93
		37,993	B 023186	13.12.93
		62,978	B 023926	04.03.94

Spain	25,000	-		
Sweden	to be announced	-		
Switzerland*	326,099	60,000	B 022257	20.08.93
		65,310	B 022042	19.07.93
		60,626	B 023462	10.01.94
USA	200,000	200,000	B 021147	24.03.93
OTHERS				
European Commission*	57,000	-		
UNEP	400,000	250,000	A 273095	25.05.93
		50,000	A 277756	22.09.93
TOTAL	2,523,329	1,968,463		

* Approximate US dollar equivalent of local currency pledge.

12. At the time of the adoption of resolution 47/188, the General Assembly was informed that estimated costs in 1993 and 1994 for staff and conference servicing in connection with the work of the Committee would be absorbed in the United Nations Programme Budget for those years. Three professional level posts and four general service posts were provided from the regular budget for 1993, and two senior posts were loaned from the resources of the Department of Administration and Management. For 1994, the two senior level posts have been incorporated into the regular budget of INCD, and non-staff costs have been provided for at a similar level as that for 1993. The Fund was established for the purpose of supplementing the resources to be provided by the regular budget; these additional resources were required to enable the Secretariat to undertake activities designed to provide the necessary support to the negotiating process including preparatory substantive work at the national, regional and global levels. As summarized in the Aide Memoire attached to the Secretary General's note verbale, the Secretariat estimated the extrabudgetary resources needed at US$3.2 million, to enable it to carry out the activities identified.

13. As noted in paragraph 4, overhead cost (13%) are retained an an operating reserve (15%) maintained out of contributions, the latter to ensure the availability of resources to meet eventual final commitments. Thus, from total contributions of US$ 1,968,463 an amount of US$ 1,417,294 was available to meet on-going expenses. At 28 February 1994, expenditures from the Fund amounted to US$ 1,089,167. Commitments remaining for staff indicated in paragraph 14 below amount to a further estimated cost of US$ 300,000.

14. As agreed with contributing countries, US, Canada, Switzerland, three staff members have been recruited for one year using the resources available in the Fund. France has made a contribution which has enabled the recruitment of an Associate Expert from a developing country for one year. The extra-budgetary contributions used for the recruitment of staff

members by the Secretariat as well as the staff members concerned are listed under the following table:

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS INCD SECRETARIAT SUPPORT *

Donor Country	Contri-butions or Pledges	Overhead Support Costs	Secretariat/ Admin. Support	Travel	Staff & Related Costs
CANADA LEGAL ADVISER	134,982	17,548		10,000	**107,434** [1]
SWITZERLAND ECONOMIC ADVISER	225,000	29,250		25,000	**170,750** [2]
USA SPECIAL ADVISOR	200,000	26,000			**174,000** [3]
UNCDF ECONOMIC POLICY COORDINATOR	100,000	13,000	47,000		**40,000**
FRANCE JUNIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER	105,542	13,720			**91,821** [2]
TOTAL	**765,524**	**99,518**	**47,000**	**35,000**	**584,005**

* Up to 28 February 1994 the following amount has been spent under the chapter Secretariat Support: US$ 340,534

1) To August 1994
2) To December 1994
3) To January 1994

15. Moreover, a staff member of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been seconded to the Secretariat for the duration of the negotiations. The FAO has also assigned an Environmental Lawyer to assist the Secretariat on a part-time basis. The Secretariat has also been in contact with Italy and Spain to obtain the secondment of civil servants or the financing of experts. Other staff members, both professional and general service, may be made available from the United Nations secretariat, other institutions or will be recruited as temporary staff financed from the Fund.

16. In the framework of the negotiating process the Secretariat has also assisted a number of developing countries in their national, sub-regional and regional preparatory activities. The countries concerned by those preparatory activities and the resources allocated, are shown in the following table. These activities are being financed through the INCD Trust Fund and bilateral arrangements concluded between the recipient country and a donor country or Agency. This has been the case for the following countries: Germany, Sweden and the following Agencies: UNSO, UNDP, UNCDF. The Secretariat is in contact with other countries and international Agencies and organizations in order to obtain additional support for the preparatory activities. In this regard, the regional offices of UNDP are studying the possibility of extending such a support through the UNDP offices in the recipient countries.

	Level of Advancement of the Study	Date of signature of the MOU	Resources foreseen	Resources allocated up-to-date	Origin of Funds
AFRICA					
MALI	National Workshop 2-4 November 1993 General Report on the Case Study Synthesis Report	07.06.93	100,000	70,000	UNSO 50,000 INCD 50,000
TUNISIA	National Workshop 27-28 October 1993 * Report on the Case Study * Synthesis of the Case Study * National Action Programme * Resumé of National Action Programme (English and French)	15.06.93	108,000	93,000	UNDP 65,000 GERMANY 43,000
UGANDA	National Workshop November 1993 Report on the Case Study	02.06.93	106,510	100,000	SWEDEN UNSO
BOTSWANA	Partial Report 15.02.94	17.06.93	82,320	63,403	UNDP

CILSS	Regional Meeting 17-18 February 1994 Provisional Report on Study of Women Participation	07.07.93	100,000		GERMANY INCD (Advance)
UMA	Provisional Report Meeting of Experts for finalisation (2 days in February 1994)	13.08.93	90,000	50,000	INCD
SADC	Work Plan 18.01.94	12.07.93	70,000	20,000	INCD
IGADD	Final Report 19.12.93 with National Reports on Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Uganda, Erithrea, Sudan	15.07.93	100,000		GERMANY
Economic Commission for Africa	Report on Regional Case Study 15.11.93	05.05.93	25,000	25,000	INCD
LATIN AMERICA					
CHILE		12.12.93	25,000	18,000	INCD
PERU		08.10.93	50,000	30,000	INCD
ASIA					
TURKMENISTAN	* Study by the Desert Institute 13.01.94 * Sub-Regional Conference in Ashgabat January 1994 * Proposition for Asian Regional Instrument, elaborated by the Desert Institute	26.10.93	30,000	30,000	INCD
TOTAL			**886,830**	**499,403**	

* To be financed through special agreements with UNDP offices. The practical modalities of such an assistance is still being discussed between the INCD Secretariat and UNDP.

17. The Secretariat is also financing or co-financing special studies being undertaken by the International Panel of Experts on Desertification in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations such as UNIDO and with the assistance of other Experts in order to draw to the maximum on expertise available in government, international organizations and the private sector. These studies have been identified by the five sub-groups of IPED and are related to the following areas: (1) the linkages between drought/desertification and the global climate system/climate change, (2) the conservation and utilization of biodiversity in dryland areas, (3) the effect of drought and desertification on ground and surface water resources, (4) the development and utilization of alternative renewable energy resources in areas affected by drought and desertification, and (5) the economic and social consequences of drought and desertification. As shown below, some of these studies are already being carried out. Additional resources will be necessary to undertake the remaining studies and usefully supplement IPED resources. The following table shows the special studies being carried out as well as other activities undertaken by the Secretariat in the fulfilment of its mandate, including support to NGOs both in terms of participation to the INCD sessions as well as preparatory activities:

Activity	Cost
Special IPED Studies	
* Energy and Desertification	39,000
* Biodiversity and Desertification	25,000
Consultancy	17,884
Meeting of Experts (Almeria)	35,000 (Estimated)
Information System Support	15,000
Travel of Staff	56,315
(of which in direct support of case studies)	(22,773)
Travel of Participants (Experts)	42,279
NGOs	
* International NGO Conference on Desertification (Bamako)	152,903
* Outreach programmes	9,000
* Earth Action	24,000
TOTAL	**439,154**

18. The Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to respond to the need for contributions to the Trust Fund so as to enable the Secretariat to launch the activities designed to support the negotiating process.